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ing stars, looming large and resplendent, Venus with great shining face standing high over the prairie. And then, they in turn were followed by the rich red band that presaged the coming of the morning.

Days beginning with sunrises of orange and red, ended perhaps with a lake of gleaming silver, the sunset a serene green with only delicate touches of red, perhaps with an orange sky behind the straggling tree border of the lake, or with a flamboyant afterglow sending continental funnels of color high in the sky.

Whatever turn they took the days were days of glory, and although I had to leave for another time that most wonderful ornithological experience, the northern flight of waterfowl, my summer had already had full measure and I left with mental gallery crowded with bird pictures, with pulses quickened by the stirring northern days, with mind swept clear by prairie winds, and with spirit uplifted by memories of gorgeous sunrises and sunsets, of brilliant morning stars, of marvelous star-filled firmaments, and illuminated auroral skies.

Washington, D. C., June 16, 1917.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Eastern Savannah Sparrow and the Aleutian Savannah Sparrow at Tacoma, Washington.—The Savannah Sparrow group is represented at Tacoma during different times in the year by no less than four varieties, but it was not until the fall of 1919 that I was able to actually take specimens of the Aleutian Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis sandwichensis*). The first, a male, and evidently a young of the year, was taken on October 12, while sitting on a fence in company with a large number of Savannah Sparrows. Its dark coloring, sluggish actions, and much larger size at once showed it to be different from its companions, with which the tidewater marsh was swarming. Upon returning to the same locality on October 30, I was successful in collecting another male of the same species, an adult this time, and saw what I am positive from their actions were two or three others. The difference in actions between this species and the rest of the group is so striking as to at once arouse my suspicion as to their being different. When I first saw this bird it flushed almost under my feet when I was stalking some ducks, instead of flying at from twenty to thirty yards as the other Savannahs all do. I at once lost all interest in the ducks and went in pursuit of my sparrow. After walking up and down where I had "marked" it, I saw it standing watching me some ten feet away, and it ran instead of flying. In fact I very nearly did not get this bird in my efforts to study its habits before collecting it.

On September 20, 1919, I collected on the same tide-flats an adult male Eastern Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*), which was in the company of a large number of others that were apparently of the same kind. All three of the above mentioned specimens were kindly identified for me by Mr. Joseph Grinnell. Judging from specimens taken in past years I believe this form is an extremely abundant fall migrant, although I have never seen it in the spring migration.

It may be of interest to state that our breeding form in western Washington is the Brooks Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis brooksi*), a very small, light-colored bird, barely five and a quarter inches long. They arrive from the south usually in the latter part of March, although a few are sometimes found much earlier, and they leave for the south again very early in September. The most northern record that I have for this form is a nest with six eggs in my collection taken, with the parent bird, on a

tidewater marsh at Knik, Alaska, by Mr. Geo. G. Cantwell, of Puyallup, Washington. At that point, Mr. Cantwell tells me, the Western Savannah Sparrows were still migrating, either to interior Alaska or to some point north of Knik, as none remained to breed in that section.

The Western Savannah Sparrow (*P. s. alaudinus*) reaches Tacoma about April 20 on its northern migration, remaining until about May 10, at which time our little Washington bird (*brooksi*) is busy with nests and eggs. I am uncertain as to what route *alaudinus* takes on the fall migration. Still another form of this sparrow is found during the breeding season in eastern Washington, namely the Nevada Savannah Sparrow (*P. s. nevadensis*), giving the state of Washington five very easily distinguishable forms. Recurring once more to *alaudinus*, it would seem that this form should be given a new English name, at least, as the present one is not only misleading, but also not in accordance with existing conditions.—J. H. BOWLES, Tacoma, Washington, January 3, 1920.

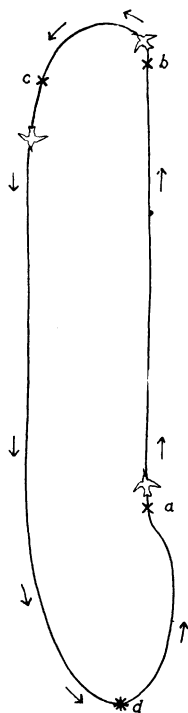


Fig. 27. DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATING THE NUPTIAL FLIGHT OF THE ANNA HUMMINGBIRD.

Nuptial Flight of the Anna Hummingbird.—On January 13, 1918, I was fortunate enough to be present at a finished performance of the nuptial flight of a male Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), and to observe the affair so clearly that I could diagram it with accuracy. I have been present at the performance many times since, but never under conditions permitting a full and clear observation. I do not know, therefore, whether, typically, the Anna Hummer adheres rigidly to the evolutions here described, or whether he varies them somewhat.

The phenomenon was observed over chaparral in a small ravine several hundred yards uphill from the University of California swimming pool, Berkeley. It consisted of set aerial evolutions with vocal demonstrations occurring at mechanically exact points in space and time. The phases of the affair were as follows (see fig. 27):

The bird hovered in one spot, *a*, long enough to utter its common song, *zeed'l-zeed'l-zeed'l*, *zeed'l-zeed'l-zeed'l*, *zeed'l-zeed'l-zeed'l*. I can best convey an idea of the timbre of this utterance by asking the reader to think of the loose-rattling plus glassy-singing sound-quality of small shot made to roll round the inside of a thin bottle or flask. But there is also a dry element involved, as if fragments of crisp thorny-edged leaves were mixed with the shot, scratching the glass on their way round and lending a sort of continuous high squeaky ring to the effect, like a thread of tonality running throughout. The utterance is rather faint and whisper-like, and does not come out into full tonality. It is not rapid. It consists of nine syllables in three sections of three each.

From *a* to *b* the bird climbed with great rapidity straight into the air, hovering a moment at *b*, without, however, vocalizing.

The line from *c* downward represents a bullet-swift dive, head-first, with an upward swoop just clear of the bush-top at a specifically aimed-at point, *d*. Within a few inches of *d* the female was doubtless perched, though she was so well concealed that I could not see her from where I stood.

At *d* the bird uttered an abrupt, explosive, ringing *kilp* or *pilp*. Mr. J. Grinnell spells it *plop*, which is the same in essence. The vowel-sound varies with the intensity of the utterance, sometimes being lower and nearer "o". There is certainly a musical "l" involved, which my ears persist in hearing after the vowel-sound. As a matter of fact, all of the sound elements concerned are nearly, if not quite, simultaneous. The note is remarkable: tonal and clear, and louder and more violent than one would expect from a bird of the hummer size. It is a sort of clank. It rings out like a good live blow on musical glass or metal, but the ring dies instantly as if gulped down into some cavern of dead silence.

This *kilp* is uttered en route from *c* to *a*. Hardly has the sound emanated from *d* when the bird may be descried at *a*, hovering as before and uttering the nine-syllabled note already described. Incidentally it may be mentioned that this *kilp*-note may prove very mystifying when heard for the first time, since it is always uttered in rapid transit from one place in air to another, but, because it always comes from the same spot in the bushes, one is led to assume that the author thereof must be stationary.

The Anna Hummer went through the performance described, eleven times. Not once did the thing vary in any degree or detail that I could detect. The distance from *b* to *d* I estimated at 75 feet.

It may not be amiss to comment briefly on some utterances of this hummingbird not necessarily connected with the nuptial flight. The nine-syllabled song is also used for ordinary purposes, without other demonstrations, and may be heard when the bird is on the wing, or perching. It is subject to irregularities in form, and is not always nine-syllabled. Another note is a rapid shaking utterance—*chicker-chicker-chicker-chicker-chicker*—not unlike the trill of the Chipping Sparrow in its more strident and untional phase. This shaking note sometimes follows the *kilp*-note. Under ordinary conditions, i. e., not during the nuptial flight, the nine-syllabled note is sometimes followed by a brisk *thip! thip! thip!* (*th* pronounced as in "other"). It is a tiny note, yet violent and forced-sounding. The bird also has a sharp smacking *tip*-note, like that of the Junco and Fox Sparrow. It is sometimes uttered on the wing, in a series: *tip, tip, tip-tip-tip*, etc.—RICHARD HUNT, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 26, 1920.*

The Northern Bald Eagle a Probable Californian Bird.—The northern form of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus*), as far as I am aware, has not been recorded from California, though it should occur at least as a migrant. The resident form in the Upper Sonoran regions of the state is no doubt the Southern Bald Eagle (*H. l. leucocephalus*), but a specimen in my collection (no. 24854, male adult, Lakeport, Lake County; February 2, 1893; Walter Brett, collector), with a wing measurement of 595 mm., is large enough to be *alascanus*. Though the material available is not sufficient to decide the point, I have been able to examine two adult females of the southern form, in the Dwight collection, one from Fauquier County, Virginia, and one from Safety Harbor, Hillsborough County, Florida, having wing measurements respectively of 586 and 565 mm. The Lakeport male is thus a little larger than either of these southern females, and not much smaller than an adult of undetermined sex (though presumably a male), in my collection from Douglas Island, Alaska, with a wing measurement of 623 mm. The two forms of the Bald Eagle have never been well differentiated. The sexes vary a good deal in size among themselves, and the geographical ranges of the two forms are not well understood; but an examination of the material available from California will probably show the occurrence of both forms in the state.—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario, December 15, 1919.*

A New Bird for the Pacific Slope of Southern California.—The Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula*) is a rare bird in California, and there are but two published records for the southern part of the state, I believe. One bird was taken near Victorville (CONDOR, VII, p. 77), and another near Daggett (CONDOR, XIII, p. 34). There appear to be no recorded instances for the Pacific slope of southern California.

This present winter (1919-20) I have observed numbers of these birds in Claremont during January and February, and specimens of both sexes were collected on February 15, 16, 17 and 18. The birds collected were with flocks of Cedar Birds (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), and seemed to be feeding exclusively on pepper berries, with which their throats were gorged; one, by actual count, had thirty-nine berries in its throat. To show how abundant these birds were here, on February 22 I carefully counted the Bohemian Waxwings in a rather large flock. There were over a hundred in a pepper tree, while at the same time there were many others sitting in a tall blue gum nearby, so that I am safe in saying that there were at least a hundred and fifty of the Bohemian Waxwings present at that time. In fact these birds outnumbered the Cedar Waxwings three to one.

I was within fifteen and twenty feet of the birds when counting them, and at this distance the chestnut-colored under tail coverts, gray breast and underparts, and large size, were all plainly apparent.

It will be interesting to learn whether there are other stations of record upon the Pacific slope this winter. Until the present time our winter has been dry. Bailey Mountain Chickadees, Slender-billed Nuthatches, Blue-fronted Jays, and Townsend Solitaires have been seen right here in town. A fellow collector and member of the Cooper Club, Gordon Nicholson of Ontario, who has observed the Bohemian Waxwings with me here, has taken special pains to examine the flocks of Cedar Birds in Upland and Ontario, without detecting a single Bohemian Waxwing among them up to this time.

This appears to be the southernmost point of record for the species in North America as well as the first recorded instance for the Pacific slope of southern California. It is noteworthy also in that there was such a large number of the birds present.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, February 25, 1920.*

Western Evening Grosbeak in Southern California.—On the afternoon of November 2, 1919, during a very cold spell following a storm with much snow in the mountains nearby, I was walking through Smiley Heights Park in Redlands, when the tinkling notes of a chickadee drew my attention to a small cedar or cypress directly at the side of the road. To my astonishment it looked like an animated Christmas tree, for there were not only a half dozen Mountain Chickadees (*Penthestes gambeli baileyae*) clinging to the twigs and fluttering in the branches, but as many Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) running on the trunk of it and the neighboring tree, while ornamenting the outer branchlets were at least a dozen Western Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina montana*), male and female.

I had never before seen them in southern California and could not believe my eyes at first, but the size and beak were right, and the coloring, particularly that of the males, was unmistakable, for I had become very familiar with them in Oregon. They were industriously peeling away the hard outer shell of the cedar nuts and feasting upon the seeds within. The afternoons of the two following days, November 3 and 4, I went again at the same hour and found both times a pair of the grosbeaks, a male and a female, in the same tree, eating the seeds as before. They seemed entirely unafraid and let me stand for an hour both days directly beneath them not ten feet away. The second day they finally flew away toward the west, but on the third day they were still eating seeds when I left. I was prevented from going again before a week passed and then could find no trace of them and have never seen them since, even though colder weather followed at Thanksgiving.—LILIAN ZECH, *Redlands, California, February 29, 1920.*

Western Evening Grosbeak in the San Francisco Bay Region.—It is apparently a great asset to have a tall maple tree hanging full of winged seeds in an Oakland garden, for on February 27, 1920, at eight o'clock in the morning, I saw four Western Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina montana*) in that tree, and they ate the seeds steadily until nearly twelve o'clock. Two of them were much yellower than the others, and one was quite a little smaller. Next morning at the same time they came again, and I telephoned two members of the Cooper Club to come and enjoy them with me, but they stayed only an hour and a half.—JANE L. SCHLESINGER, *Oakland, California, March 3, 1920.*

Probable Breeding of the Aleutian Tern in Southeastern Alaska.—In southeastern Alaska on the Situk River Flats, near Yakutat, from July 18 to 23, 1916, and during the first week of July, 1917, and at the Alsek River Flats (Dry Bay) sixty miles easterly, on July 6 and 7, 1917, among the common Arctic Terns that were obviously breeding, were many Aleutian Terns (*Sterna aleutica*), comprising perhaps thirty per cent of the tern population. They showed as much concern over the presence of an intruder as did the Arctic Terns, and there is every reason to believe them to have been breeding in company with the more common *paradisaea*, although neither eggs nor young of either were found during brief searches at these late dates. During one of the short searches on the Situk Flats in 1916, one Aleutian Tern repeatedly struck the writer's hat, all the

while uttering its complaining note. Thus, with reasonable certainty of success, the Aleutian Tern may be looked for as nesting as far east as Dry Bay, which, so far as the writer knows, is far to the eastward of any previous record of its breeding.—ERNEST P. WALKER, *Phoenix, Arizona, February 7, 1920.*

Dusky Warbler at Berkeley, California.—On February 23, 1920, Dr. William F. Bade handed me a recently dead Dusky Warbler (*Vermivora celata sordida*) which he had just picked up in his backyard at 2616 College Avenue, Berkeley. The feathers in a spot on the throat and on the forehead were gone, as if slugs had been at work on the bird, so that it must have met its death the preceding night or before. Upon skinning, I found wounds in the body which suggested that it had encountered the claws of a cat. The bird was a female in good feather. It was somewhat discolored by town soot, so that it had probably been living in the well-known smoke belt of Berkeley and Oakland for some time, perhaps wintering here. The specimen is preserved in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology as no. 40396 of its bird collection, and authenticates the occurrence of the Dusky Warbler a little farther north than heretofore reported. The two other stations for the San Francisco Bay region are Hayward and Palo Alto—occurrences in December, January and February (see *Pac. Coast Avif.*, no. 11, 1915, p. 146). The northernmost breeding point for this warbler so far as known is Santa Rosa Island, below Point Concepcion. Part of the *winter* habitat of the bird thus lies some 260 miles to the northward of its *summer* range, as well as over 100 miles to the westward.—J. GRINNELL, *California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, March 22, 1920.*

Range of the Magpie in New Mexico.—On December 28, 1919, I saw a Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*) in a willow swamp on the banks of the Rio Grande near Bernardo, New Mexico. I have also seen the species this winter near Tome, and for several winters near Peralta. On October 13, 1918, I saw a large number west of Alameda. They are plentiful in summer near Valley Ranch, New Mexico, and in Rio Arriba County are found throughout the year.

Bernardo, as nearly as I know, is the southernmost point of record. I have never seen one in the Rio Grande Valley proper in summer; apparently they do not breed south of Valley Ranch, on the upper Pecos.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 21, 1920.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Frank S. Daggett died in Redlands, California, April 5, 1920. In his death the Cooper Club has lost one who was a member almost from the inception of the organization and who in many ways was an important factor in the development of the Club. The Southern Division in particular will miss the presence of a member always faithful in attendance at the meetings, and ready, with helpful counsel and personal effort, in the various problems that the Club has faced. An account of Mr. Daggett's life will appear in the next issue of THE CONDOR.

The Supreme Court of the United States has recently handed down a decision upholding the constitutionality of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This opinion was delivered in judgment of a bill in equity brought by the State of Missouri to prevent a game warden of the United States from attempting to enforce the Act and the regulations made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Ornithologists will cordially endorse

the "common sense" summary in the last paragraph of the Court's decree, that: "Here a national interest of very nearly the first magnitude is involved. It can be protected only by national action in concert with that of another power. The subject matter is only transitorily within the State and has no permanent habitat therein. But for the treaty and the statute there soon might be no birds for any powers to deal with. We see nothing in the Constitution that compels the Government to sit by while a food supply is cut off and the protectors of our forests and our crops are destroyed."

The National Parks Service is this year inaugurating a system of instruction in natural history for visitors to Yosemite National Park. Two members of the Cooper Club will conduct this work during the season of 1920. Through coöperation with the California Fish and Game Commission, Dr. H. C. Bryant will give instruction from June 1 to August 31. Dr. L. H. Miller, Department